

stamp process into a new age of technology by requiring systems that provide for the electronic issuance, use, and redemption of coupons in the form of electronic benefit transfer cards to be interoperable, and food stamp benefits to be made portable, among all States not later than October 1, 2002.

I appreciate that this bill works in conjunction with the Secretary of Agriculture. The measure appropriately directs the Secretary of Agriculture to promulgate regulations that adopt a national standard based upon a standard used by the majority of States and require any electronic benefit transfer contract (as defined by this Act) entered into 30 days or more after promulgation of such regulations be in accordance with the national standard.

The bill also includes language to rectify potential technological difficulties. This piece of legislation authorizes the Secretary to provide a requesting State with a temporary deadline waiver based upon unusual technological barriers.

It is also vitally important that we provide for an interim system until the electronic standard is completed. This bill directs the Secretary to allow a State using a smart card food stamp delivery system to continue such system until a technological method is available for electronic benefit transfer card interoperability. Sets forth the conditions for full Federal payment of State switching costs, including annual fiscal year caps.

In an effort to provide a thorough analysis of this undertaking, this measure directs the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a study of alternatives for handling food stamp benefit electronic transactions, including use of a single switching hub.

I am aware that this measure passed the Senate, and I appreciate the bipartisan effort to enact this bill. I support this fine piece of legislation.

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 1733, the Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Interoperability and Portability Act. I'd like to thank Chairman LARRY COMBEST and Chairman BOB GOODLATTE for bringing this bill to the floor today and for their strong leadership on this important issue.

Interoperability of food stamp EBT systems makes sense both for recipients and retailers. As USDA moves from paper food coupons to EBT cards, interoperability ensures that recipients will retain the same portability as before. Recipients will be able to access stores nearest to their homes and retailers will be able to serve their customers regardless of state boundaries. In areas of the country near state lines, such as in my Congressional District in Southern Missouri, incompatible EBT systems have been a significant problem for both groups. I am very pleased that the bill before us today will resolve this problem and bring the best technology to the food stamp program.

The government and the taxpayer, too, are well served by S. 1733, because it establishes a new mechanism for tracking and policing fraud and abuse in the food stamp program. In my home state of Missouri, the Department of Social Services estimates that an interoperable EBT system would save the federal government as much as \$1 million annually in reduced fraud in Missouri alone.

One aspect of S. 1733 that I would like to highlight is that it provides 100% federal funding of the costs associated with switching and

settling interstate transactions. These costs will not be imposed on other entities, such as retail food stores, states, and food stamp households. This is entirely appropriate because these costs are directly related to administering the program on a nationwide basis, not within a particular state.

Again, I would like to reiterate to my colleagues that this is a very sensible piece of legislation that deserves the support of this House. I urge a strong "Yes" vote.

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. COMBEST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1733.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 1733.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6 p.m.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 52 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6 p.m.

1800

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS) at 6 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, the Chair will now put the question on each motion to suspend the rules on which further proceedings were postponed earlier today in the order in which that motion was entertained.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

House Concurrent Resolution 244, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 2130, concurring in Senate amendment, by the yeas and nays.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first such vote in this series.

PERMITTING USE OF CAPITOL ROTUNDA FOR CEREMONY COMMEMORATING VICTIMS OF HOLOCAUST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 244.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 244, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 339, nays 0, not voting 95, as follows:

[Roll No. 2]

YEAS—339

Ackerman	Cummings	Hinchey
Aderholt	Cunningham	Hobson
Allen	Danner	Hoefel
Archer	Davis (FL)	Hoekstra
Armey	Davis (VA)	Holden
Baca	DeFazio	Holt
Bachus	DeLauro	Hooley
Baird	DeLay	Horn
Baker	Deutscher	Hostettler
Baldacci	Dickey	Houghton
Baldwin	Dicks	Hoyer
Ballenger	Dixon	Hutchinson
Barr	Doggett	Hyde
Barrett (WI)	Dooley	Inslee
Bartlett	Doolittle	Jackson (IL)
Barton	Doyle	Jackson-Lee
Bentsen	Dreier	(TX)
Bereuter	Duncan	Jenkins
Berkley	Dunn	John
Berry	Edwards	Johnson, E. B.
Biggert	Ehlers	Johnson, Sam
Bilbray	Emerson	Jones (NC)
Bilirakis	Engel	Jones (OH)
Bishop	English	Kanjorski
Blagojevich	Eshoo	Kasich
Bliley	Etheridge	Kelly
Blumenauer	Evans	Kildee
Blunt	Ewing	Kind (WI)
Boehlert	Farr	King (NY)
Boehner	Filner	Klecza
Bonilla	Fletcher	Klink
Bonior	Foley	Knollenberg
Bono	Forbes	Kolbe
Borski	Ford	Kucinich
Boswell	Fossella	Kuykendall
Boyd	Frank (MA)	LaFalce
Brady (PA)	Frelinghuysen	LaHood
Brady (TX)	Frost	Lampson
Burr	Gallegly	Lantos
Buyer	Ganske	Latham
Callahan	Gekas	LaTourette
Calvert	Gibbons	Lazio
Camp	Gilchrest	Leach
Canady	Gillmor	Lee
Cannon	Gilman	Levin
Capps	Gonzalez	Lewis (GA)
Capuano	Goode	Lewis (KY)
Cardin	Goodlatte	Linder
Castle	Gordon	Lipinski
Chabot	Goss	LoBiondo
Chenoweth-Hage	Granger	Lofgren
Clay	Green (TX)	Lucas (KY)
Clayton	Green (WI)	Luther
Clement	Greenwood	Maloney (CT)
Clyburn	Gutierrez	Maloney (NY)
Coble	Gutknecht	Manzullo
Collins	Hall (OH)	Martinez
Combest	Hall (TX)	Mascara
Condit	Hastings (FL)	McCarthy (MO)
Conyers	Hastings (WA)	McCarthy (NY)
Cook	Hayes	McDermott
Costello	Hayworth	McGovern
Coyne	Herger	McHugh
Cramer	Hill (IN)	McInnis
Crane	Hill (MT)	McIntyre
Crowley	Hilleary	McKeon
Cubin	Hilliard	McKinney